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(b) the actual number of Assistant Engineers so dealt with and their names;

(c) whether their places have been filled up or abolished;

(d) if those places have not been abolished, to state the reasons for the step taken; and

(ii) to lay on the table the papers relating to their compulsory retirement?

A.—(i) (*a*) It is not a fact that Assistant Engineers were ordered to take leave and to retire. As a measure of retrenchment the cadre of the Madras Engineering Service was reduced from 106 to 75. Notice of discharge was given to officers who completed the qualifying service to be retired on compensation pension to the extent there was excess in the service.

(*b*) List is appended.*

(*c*) & (*d*) The appointments were abolished.

(ii) The matter is pending with the Government of India.

Discharge of permanent Lower Subordinates in the Public Works Department.

281 *Q.*—Mr. P. PEDDIRAJU: Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Minister for Education and Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the method of discharging permanent Lower Subordinates in the late 2nd circle; and

(*b*) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the Chief Engineer's Memorandum No. 6568-C, dated 18th September 1923?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The answer to (*a*) and (*b*) is in the affirmative.

Compulsory retirement of certain members in the Provincial Engineering Service.

282 *Q.*—Mr. ABBAS ALI KHAN: Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Minister for Education and Public Works be pleased to state—

(1) whether a Government Order was passed last year providing for the compulsory retirement of members of the Provincial Engineering Service who had put in 25 years' service;

(2) whether any exceptions were made to this rule;

(3) if so, how many Brahmans and how many non-Brahmans were so excepted; and

(4) whether it is a fact that the only Indian Christian who came under these rules was compulsorily retired?

A.—(1) A Government Order was passed reducing the cadre of the Madras Engineering Service from 106 to 75 and in order to bring down the then existing strength of 95 to the sanctioned number the surplus officers were selected for discharge on pension under article 426, Civil Service Regulations, from among those who had completed twenty-five years' service for pension.

* Printed as Appendix II on page 292 infra.

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(2) & (3) Surplus officers were retired to the extent necessary, and there still remained nine officers who had completed twenty-five years' qualifying service whom it was not found necessary to discharge immediately. Of these, two were Europeans, four Brahmans and three non-Brahmans. Of the first and last class, one in each has since retired.

(4) Yes.

Mr. ABBAS ALI KHAN :—" May I enquire, Sir, whether the Indian Christians are classified as members of the non-Brahman party ? "

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" The hon. Member must know that for himself. He is an Advocate of experience."

Mr. ABBAS ALI KHAN :—" I have no doubt about it, Sir, but I find that whereas the only Indian Christian in the service was compulsorily retired, the three non-Brahmans were retained ? "

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" The information with regard to that particular officer will not be to his credit, nor to his advantage in the matter of pension, if the full information is disclosed."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" The hon. the Minister said that if certain information is to be disclosed, it would not be to the advantage of the individual officer concerned. Is it communal factor, or personal, Sir ? "

(No answer.)

Reforms (Council Secretaries).

Council Secretaries.

283 Q.—Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Council Secretaries appointed during the first Legislative Council under section 52 (4) of the Government of India Act still continue as Council Secretaries having regard to the provision of sub-section (4) of that section ;

(*b*) whether any of the Council Secretaries have submitted their resignation ; and whether the resignations have been accepted ;

(*c*) whether any of them still continue to draw pay ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that one of them, though not re-elected to the Council, has drawn pay ; and, if so, until what date ;

(*e*) what is the amount of salary that has been drawn by each of the Council Secretaries between 1st April to August 1923 and after the dissolution of the Council in September 1923 ; and

(*f*) whether the appointment of the Council Secretaries made by His Excellency the Governor under section 52 of the Act was intended to continue beyond the period of the last Council ?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*d*) The three Council Secretaries continued in office till the 1st December 1923, on which date they resigned and their resignations were accepted. No appointments have been made after 1st December 1923, and so no one has drawn pay from that date.